

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 044001  
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 H-01 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02  
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 PA-01 /060 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:BAFLECK:EBS  
APPROVED BY EA:ROAKLEY  
HA:KHILL (INFO)  
H:DKENNEY (INFO)

-----098168 190908Z /20

R 181846Z FEB 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PINS, MASS, RP

SUBJECT: HIRC HUMAN RIGHTS HEARING

1. SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF HOUSE  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE HELD HEARING FEBRUARY 16  
ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND AND US MILI-  
TARY ASSISTANCE. WITNESSES WERE RAMSEY CLARK, FATHER JAMES  
TRAVIS, AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROBERT OAKLEY.  
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FRASER WAS ONLY CONGRESSMAN PRESENT.

2. CLARK SUBMITTED NO PREPARED STATEMENT BUT MADE RAMBLING  
GENERAL REMARKS IN WHICH HE STATED THAILAND AND PHILIPPINES  
SIMILAR IN THAT BOTH ARE LARGE COUNTRIES WITH POOR POPULA-  
TIONS, CONTROLLED BY MILITARY POWER THROUGH PRACTICE OF  
TERROR, IN WHICH LITTLE POLITICAL OPPOSITION OR FREEDOM OF  
PRESS IS TOLERATED, IN WHICH ARBITRARY ARREST IS BOTH  
POSSIBLE AND FREQUENT, AND IN WHICH DISAPPEARANCE OF CITI-  
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ZENS IS A GROWING PROBLEM.

3. WITH SPECIFIC REGARD TO THE PHILIPPINES, CLARK STATED  
ONLY BASIS FOR CONTINUANCE OF MARTIAL LAW IS PRESIDENT  
MARCOS' COVETOUSNESS FOR POWER. CLARK REFERRED TO HIS  
ATTENDANCE AT WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW CONFERENCE AND  
STATED THAT MARCOS HAD MADE PROMISES AT THAT TIME WHICH

HAVE NOT SINCE BEEN CARRIED OUT BECAUSE OF GOP "PATTERN OF DECEPTION". PROMISES INCLUDED STATEMENT THAT "ELECTIONS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER" AND PROMISE TO LIFT RESTRICTIONS ON EXTERNAL TRAVEL BY FILIPINOS. CLARK DECRIED LACK OF INDIGENOUS PRESS COVERAGE AT CONFERENCE AND STATED POLITICAL OPPOSITION IN PHILIPPINE HAS NO ACCESS TO PRESS OR TELEVISION. CLARK ENDED PHILIPPINE-RELATED PORTION OF HIS REMARKS WITH PLEA THAT ALL US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GOP BE STOPPED.

4. NEXT WITNESS WAS FATHER JAMES TRAVIS, A PRIEST OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS, WHO HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM FIVE YEARS IN EASTERN MINDANAO WHERE HE WAS UNDER CONTRACT TO MARYKNOLL ORDER. FATHER TRAVIS SUBMITTED LENGTHY PREPARED STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD (COPY BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSY) AND PRESENTED ORAL SUMMARY. PREPARED STATEMENT DISCUSSES FOLLOWING TOPICS: (A) LAW-LESSNESS OF "LOOSE COMMAND" AND OTHER PARAMILITARY GROUPS; (B) PROVISION OF MUNITIONS BY USG; (C) ACTIVITIES OF PAN-AMIN; (D) ARREST, DETENTION AND TORTURE; (E) ABUSE AND MISALLOCATIONS OF US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE; (F) SUPPRESSION OF BASIC FREEDOMS OF ASSEMBLY, PRESS, AND INFRINGEMENTS OF HUMAN DIGNITY. ORAL REMARKS CONCENTRATED ON (A) AND (B), WITH SOME REFERENCE TO (C) AND (F). MUCH OF HIS STATEMENT WAS BASED UPON INCIDENTS HE CLAIMED TO HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PERSONALLY WITNESSED IN MINDANAO.

5. IN INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, TRAVIS STATED THAT US IS ASSISTING MARCOS NOT ONLY WITH QUANTIFIABLE SUPPLY OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE BUT IS ALSO PROVIDING SYMBOLIC SUPPORT. HE SAID ON BASIS OF HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCES HE WISHED TO REINFORCE CRITICAL COMMENTS MADE IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND ICJ REPORTS AND URGED THAT ALL MILITARY AID BE ELIMINATED.

6. TRAVIS ALLEGED EXISTENCE OF "LOOSE COMMAND" RECRUITED BY GOP FROM "DEATH ROW" PRISONERS TO CARRY OUT COVERT EXECUTIONS OF OPPONENTS OF REGIME. HE ALSO CRITICIZED ACTIVITIES OF CIVILIAN HOME DEFENSE FORCES AND LIKENED TOTAL STRUCTURE OF GOP SECURITY APPARATUS TO NAZI GESTAPO.

7. DURING ENSUING QUESTION PERIOD, FRASER QUERIED WHETHER WITNESSES BELIEVED PRESENCE OF MILITARY BASES IN PHILIPPINES JUSTIFIED CONTINUANCE OF MILITARY AID. CLARK REPLIED BASES NOT NECESSARY TO US SECURITY AND ARE DANGER TO PHILIPPINE SECURITY AND THREAT TO WORLD PEACE. TRAVIS SAID BASES CONSTITUTE "SQUATTING" BY USG IN PHILIPPINES.

BOTH AGREED THAT US MATERIEL BEING USED BY BOTH SIDES IN

SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES. WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON DEPARTMENT'S HUMAN RIGHT REPORTS, CLARK CHARACTERIZED THEM AS OVERLY OPTIMISTIC. TRAVIS REFERRED TO NUMEROUS STATEMENTS IN REPORT ON PHILIPPINES WHICH HE FELT SHOULD BE QUALIFIED.

8. AFTER CLARK AND TRAVIS WERE DISMISSED, OAKLEY READ FROM PREPARED STATEMENT AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS REGARDING CONVICTION OF TORTURERS, RELATIONSHIP OF MARTIAL LAW TO THE APRIL ELECTION, THE GENERAL STATUS OF MARTIAL LAW, THE ROLE OF PARAMILITARY GROUPS, THE STATUS OF THE PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY, AND THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BASE NEGOTIATIONS TO LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE TO THE GOP. HE MADE THE EXPLICIT POINT THAT WHEREAS ALL OF THE ACTIONS MARCOS HAD TALKED ABOUT AT WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW CONFERENCE MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED, MANY OF THEM HAD BEEN.

9. SUBCOMMITTEE HAD PREPARED PRESS RELEASE HIGHLIGHTING DISPLAY BY FATHER TRAVIS OF SHELLS HE HAD ACQUIRED IN MINDANAO WHICH HE CLAIMED HAD BEEN MANUFACTURED IN US (COPY BEING POUCHED). MORNING PRESS FEBRUARY 17 DOES NOT MENTION HEARING. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 18 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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